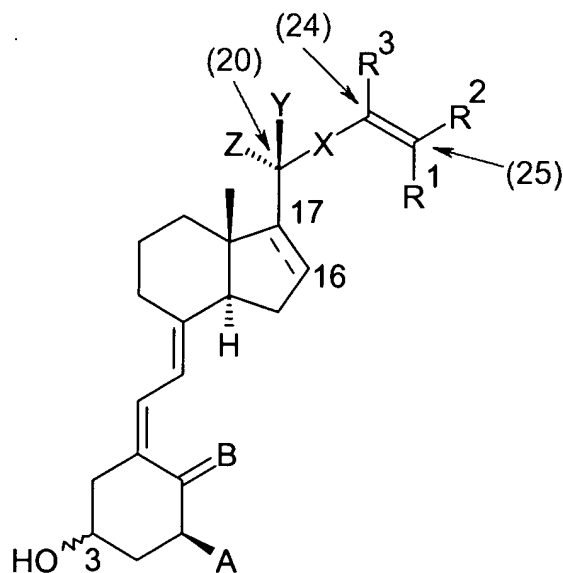


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A compound according to formula I



I

in which formula

R¹ and R², which may be the same or different, represent halogen, (C₁-C₆)hydrocarbyl, optionally substituted with one or two hydroxyl group or one or more fluorine atoms,

or, together with the carbon atom to which they are both attached, R¹ and R² form a (C₃-C₆)carbocyclic ring,

or one of R¹ and R² taken together with R³ forms a direct bond, such that a triple bond is constituted,

or R¹ and R² both represent hydrogen;

R³ when not forming a direct bond with one of R¹ and R² represents hydrogen or (C₁-C₃)hydrocarbyl;

X represents (E)-ethylene, (Z)-ethylene, ethynylene, or a bond;

Y and Z independently represent hydrogen or methyl;

the bond between C#16 and C#17 is depicted with a dotted line to illustrate that said bond may be either a single bond, in which case the projection of the ring substituent is beta, or a double bond;

A represents hydroxyl, fluorine or hydrogen;

B represents CH₂ or H₂;

the configuration in the 3-position corresponds to the same configuration as in natural vitamin D₃ (normal), or the configuration in the 3-position is opposite to natural vitamin D₃ (epi);

with the proviso that when X represents (E)-ethylene or (Z)-ethylene, one of R1 and R2 taken together with R3 may not form a direct bond, such that a triple bond is constituted;

with the further proviso that when X represents a bond R1 and R2 are not hydrogen;

with the further proviso that the compound of formula I is not 3(S)-hydroxy-9,10-secocholesta-5(Z),7(E),10(19), 22(E),24-penta-ene;

and prodrugs and stereo isomeric forms thereof.

2. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R1 and R2 when taken separately, independently represent bromo, chloro, methyl, ethyl, trifluoromethyl, hydroxymethyl, 1-hydroxyethyl, 2-hydroxyethyl, 1-propyl, 2-propyl, cyclopropyl, 2-hydroxy-2-propyl, 2-methyl-2-propyl, 3-pentyl or 3-hydroxy-3-pentyl.

3. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R1 and R2 are the same and both represent hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, bromo, chloro, or trifluoromethyl.

4. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R1 and R2 when taken together with the carbon atom to which they are both attached to form a C₃ carbocyclic ring, a C₄ carbocyclic ring, a C₅ carbocyclic ring, or a C₆ carbocyclic ring.
5. (Original) A compound according to claim 4 wherein R1 and R2 when taken together are ethylene, tri-methylene, tetra-methylene, or penta-methylene, , such as R1 and R2 when taken together with the carbon atom to which they are both attached to form a C₃ carbocyclic ring, a C₄ carbocyclic ring, a C₅ carbocyclic ring, or a C₆ carbocyclic ring.
6. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R1 and R2 are a radical obtained by removal of one hydrogen atom from a straight, branched, or cyclic saturated C₁₋₆ hydrocarbon.
7. (Currently amended) A compound according to ~~claim 1-6~~ claim 1 wherein A is hydroxyl or fluoro.
8. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R2 constitutes part of a triple bond and R1 represents a branched C₁₋₆hydrocarbyl, optionally substituted by one or two hydroxyl groups.
9. (Original) A compound according to claim 7 wherein R1 represents -CMe₃, -C(OH)Me₂, or -C(OH)Et₂.

10. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R3 represents hydrogen, methyl or cyclopropyl.
11. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein one of R1 and R2 taken together with R3 forms a direct bond, such that a triple bond is constituted.
12. (Currently amended) A compound according to ~~claims 1-11~~ claim 1 wherein the configuration in the 3-position corresponds to the configuration of natural vitamin D₃ (normal).
13. (Currently amended) A compound according to ~~claims 1-11~~ claim 1 wherein the configuration in the 3-position corresponds to the opposite configuration to that of natural vitamin D₃ (epi).
14. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 selected from the list consisting of
1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-9,10-secocholesta-5(Z),7(E),10(19), 22(E),24-penta-ene (Compound 1),
1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-9,10-secocholesta-5(Z),7(E),10(19), 22(Z),24-penta-ene (Compound 2),
20(S),1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-9,10-secocholesta-5(Z),7(E),10(19), 22(E),24-penta-ene (Compound 3),
1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-9,10-seco-26,27-cyclo-cholesta-5(Z),7(E),10(19), 22(E),24-penta-ene (Compound 4),
20(S),1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-9,10-seco-26,27-cyclo-cholesta-5(Z),7(E),10(19), 22(E),24-penta-ene (Compound 5),

1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-9,10-seco-26,27-methano-cholesta-5(Z),7(E),10(19), 22(E),24-penta-ene

(Compound 6),

20(S),1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-9,10-seco-26,27-methano-cholesta-5(Z),7(E),10(19), 22(E),24-penta-ene

(Compound 7),

1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-20(S)-(4,4-dibromo-1,3-butadien-1yl)-9,10-seco-pregna-5(Z),7(E),10(19)-triene

(Compound 8),

1(S),3(R),26-Trihydroxy-9,10-secocholesta-5(Z),7(E),10(19), 22(E),24(E)-penta-ene (Compound 9),

20(S),1(S),3(R),26-Trihydroxy-9,10-secocholesta-5(Z),7(E),10(19), 22(E),24(E)-penta-ene (Compound

10),

1(S),3(R),26-Trihydroxy-9,10-secocholesta-5(Z),7(E),10(19), 22(E),24(Z)-penta-ene (Compound 11),

20(S),1(S),3(R),26-Trihydroxy-9,10-secocholesta-5(Z),7(E),10(19), 22(E),24(Z)-penta-ene (Compound

12),

1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-20(R)-(4-methyl-5-ethyl-5-hydroxy-1(E),3(E)-heptadienyl)-9,10-secopregna-

5(Z),7(E),10(19)-triene (Compound 13),

1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-20(R)-(3-cyclopropyl-1(E),3-butadienyl)-9,10-secopregna-5(Z),7(E),10(19)-triene

(Compound 14),

1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-9,10-secocholesta-5(Z),7(E),10(19),24-tetra-ene-22-yne (Compound 15),

1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-20(R)-(5-methyl-5-hydroxy-1,3-hexadiynyl)-9,10-secopregna-5(Z),7(E),10(19)-
triene (Compound 16),

1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-20(S)-(5-ethyl-5-hydroxy-1,3-heptadiynyl)-9,10-seccopregna-5(Z),7(E),10(19)-
triene (Compound 17),

1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-20(R)-(5-ethyl-5-hydroxy-1,3-heptadiynyl)-9,10-secopregna-5(Z),7(E),10(19)-
triene (Compound 18),

1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-20(R)-(5,5-dimethyl-1,3-hexadiynyl)-9,10-secopregna-5(Z),7(E),10(19)-triene
(Compound 19),

1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-20(S)-(5,5-dimethyl-1,3-hexadiynyl)-9,10-secopregna-5(Z),7(E),10(19)-triene
(Compound 20),

1(S)-Fluoro-3(R)-hydroxy-9,10-secocholesta-5(Z),7(E),10(19), 22(E),24-penta-ene (Compound 21),

1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-19-nor-9,10-secocholesta-5,7(E),22(E),24-tetra-ene (Compound 22),

1(S),3(S)-Dihydroxy-9,10-secocholesta-5(Z),7(E),10(19),22(E),24-penta-ene (Compound 23),

1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-9,10-secocholesta-5(Z),7(E),10(19),16,22(E),24-hexa-ene (Compound 24),

1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-26,26,27,27,27-hexafluoro-9,10-secocholesta-5(Z),7(E),10(19), 22(E),24-
penta-ene (Compound 25),

3(S),26-Dihydroxy-9,10-secocholesta-5(Z),7(E),10(19), 22(E),24(E)-penta-ene (Compound 26),

1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-20(R)-(4,4-dibromo-1,3-butadien-1-yl)-9,10-seco-pregna-5(Z),7(E),10(19)-triene
(Compound 27),

1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-26,27-dimethyl-9,10-secocholesta-5(Z),7(E),10(19), 22(E),24-penta-ene
(Compound 28),

1(S),3(S)-Dihydroxy-26,27-dimethyl-9,10-secocholesta-5(Z),7(E),10(19), 22(E),24-penta-ene
(Compound 29),

1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-24-methyl-26,27-methano-9,10-secocholesta-5(Z),7(E),10(19), 22(E),24-penta-ene
(Compound 30),

1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-20(R)-(4,4-dichloro-1,3-butadien-1-yl)-9,10-seco-pregna-5(Z),7(E),10(19)-triene
(Compound 31),

1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-26,27-ethano-9,10-secocholesta-5(Z),7(E),10(19), 22(E),24-penta-ene (Compound
32),

1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-26,27-propano-9,10-secocholesta-5(Z),7(E),10(19), 22(E),24-penta-ene (Compound 33),

1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-20(S)-cyclopropylidenemethyl-9,10-seco-pregna-5(Z),7(E),10(19)-triene (Compound 34),

1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-20(R)-cyclopropylidenemethyl-9,10-seco-pregna-5(Z),7(E),10(19)-triene (Compound 35),

20(S),1(S),3(R)-Dihydroxy-26,26,26,27,27,27-hexafluoro-9,10-secocholesta-5(Z),7(E),10(19), 22(E),24-penta-ene (Compound 36).

15. (Currently amended) A compound according to ~~any of claims 1-14~~ claim 1 for use in therapy.

16. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to ~~any of claims 1-14~~, claim 1, optionally another therapeutically active compound, and optionally a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

17. (Original) A composition according to claim 16, wherein said other therapeutically active compound is selected from amongst phosphate binders, steroids and anti-proliferative agents.

18. (Currently amended) A method for treatment or prophylaxis of diseases characterised by abnormal cell differentiation and/or cell proliferation, cancer, leukemia, mammary cancer, brain glial cancer, osteosarcoma, melanoma, myelofibrosis, psoriasis, primary hyperparathyroidism, diabetes

melitus, discoid and systemic lupus erythematosus, chronic dermatoses of autoimmune type, hypertension, acne, alopecia, skin aging, AIDS, neurodegenerative disorders, Alzheimer's disease, host versus graft and graft versus host reactions, rejections of transplants, steroid induced skin atrophy and osteoporosis, and inducing osteogenesis, the method comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to ~~any of claims 1-14~~, claim 1, optionally together with another therapeutically active compound.

19. (Currently amended) A method for treatment or prophylaxis of secondary hyperparathyroidism, the method comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to ~~any of claims 1-14~~, claim 1, optionally together with another therapeutically active compound.

20. (Original) A method according to claim 18, wherein secondary hyperparathyroidism is associated with renal failure.

21. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 18-20~~, claim 18, wherein said other therapeutically active compound is selected from the group consisting of phosphate binders, steroids and anti-proliferative agents.

22. (Currently amended) The use of a compound according to ~~any of claims 1-14~~, claim 1, optionally together with another therapeutically active compound, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or amelioration of diseases selected from the list consisting of diseases characterised by abnormal cell differentiation and/or cell proliferation, cancer, leukemia, mammary cancer, brain glial cancer, osteosarcoma, melanoma, myelofibrosis, psoriasis, primary hyperparathyroidism, secondary

hyperparathyroidism, secondary parathyroidism associated with renal failure, diabetes mellitus, discoid and systemic lupus erythematosus, chronic dermatoses of autoimmune type, hypertension, acne, alopecia, skin aging, AIDS, neurodegenerative disorders, Alzheimer's disease, host versus graft and graft versus host reactions, rejections of transplants, steroid induced skin atrophy and osteoporosis, and for inducing osteogenesis,.

23. (Original) The use according to claim 22, wherein said other therapeutically active compound is selected from the group consisting of phosphate binders, steroids and anti-proliferative agents.